Approved For Release 2000/08/29 - CIA-RDP79R00890A000600050009-7



## TOP SECE

- The Approved For Release 2000/08/29 CIA-RDP/9R00890A000600050009-7 registration date may be postponed, thus permitting further time for negotiations.
  - A. Pathet Lao chief, Prince Souphanouvong, who last week refused to keep a 30 September date for a scheduled meeting near Sam Neua with Laotian premier Katay, now has agreed to meet with him in Burma on 9 October.
  - B. The Indian ICC chairman states ICC will sit in and present its "outline of settlement" either before or during the meeting.
  - C. He believes meeting will not last more than two days and he is not optimistic.

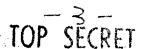
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There is an increasing possibility, however, that the 10 October registration date may be postponed, thus permitting further time for negotiations.

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- D. The Indians also believe the results of last month's Cambodian elections have convinced the Pathets that they should not risk a test of their strength at the polls.
- III. Many observers, including the Indians, believe the Communists are linking a political settlement in Laos to progress on a political settlement between North and South Vietnam.
  - A. However, if negotiations break down (as is anticipated), the Pathet rebels may intensify military operations in the northern provinces.
  - B. In event of an all-out Pathet attack, the Lastian government plans to launch a "vigorous" counteroffensive.



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the French--who control the air-lift necessary for cornthe north--would withdraw their support in the event of fighting.

mesently stationed in the northern provinces might bring viet Minh intervention on the side of the 6 300-man Pathet Lao force

The Lantian Government wants Manila Pact signatories to take up to the Lantier and to intervene on its behalf if the Viet Minh

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Approved For Release 2000/08/29: CIA-RDP79R00890A000600050009-7 interesting of rvations of the Pathets have been obtained through interrogation of the secretary of their negotiating team, who defected to Government last month.

- A. Defector claims conditions in north are bad and both civil and military Pathet officials would like to defect, but fear reprisals.
- B. He insists that the Pathets are willing to pay a high price in order to participate in December elections.
- However, Pathets! tough tactics seem to belie defector's view and it would be highly unorthodox Communist strategy to risk a secure territorial base for a doubious chance at the polls.

TAS SECRET

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## TOP SECRET

Another statement that seems doubtful is defector's assertion that Pathets are willing to see a large part of their army integrated with Royal forces and the rest demobilized, while saying at the same time that the Pathets are worried over their troops' reliability.